

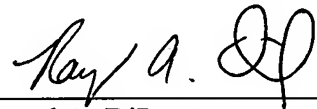
REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 23, and 25 are pending in this application, of which Claims 1, 23, and 25, the independent claims, have been amended.

Applicants respectfully request favorable consideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ray A. DiPerna", is written over a horizontal line.

Raymond A. DiPerna  
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